

Message Text

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ACTION EA-13

INFO OCT-01 SS-14 ADP-00 DPW-01 PM-03 NSC-10 NSCE-00

CIAE-00 INR-10 NSAE-00 RSC-01 DODE-00 L-02 EUR-10

IO-03 ACDA-10 AID-10 RSR-01 PRS-01 SSO-00 INRE-00

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O R 141601Z AUG 73

FM AMEMBASSY SAIGON

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 5894

INFO AMEMBASSY BANGKOK

AMCONSUL BIEN HOA

AMEMBASSY BUDAPEST

AMCONSUL CAN THO

:/AMEMBASSY CANBERRA 3029

AMCONSUL DANANG

USDEL JEC PARIS

USLO PEKING

AMEMBASSY JAKARTA

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

AMCONSUL NHA TRANG

AMEMBASSY PARIS

AMEMBASSY PHNOM PENH

AMEMBASSY SEOUL

AMEMBASSY TOKYO

AMEMBASSY VIENTIANE

AMEMBASSY WARSAW

AMEMBASSY WELLINGTON

CINCPAC

CDR USSAG NKP RTAFB IMMEDIATE

COMUSMACTHAI

DAO/SAIGON/AOSOP-OR

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E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PINT, PINS, MILI, VS

SUBJECT: VIET-NAM CEASE-FIRE WEEKLY ASSESSMENT, AUGUST 6-12,
1973

CINCPAC FOR POLAD

1. SUMMARY: THE LEVEL OF MILITARY ACTIVITY INCREASED IN MR 1 AND MR 2 AND REMAINED ESSENTIALLY THE SAME IN THE SOUTHERN HALF OF THE COUNTRY. THE LOCUS OF FIGHTING CHANGED LITTLE THROUGHOUT THE FOUR REGIONS; AND REMAINED CONCENTRATED IN THOSE AREAS WHERE THE GVN IS TENACIOUSLY ATTEMPTING TO ROLL-BACK VC/NVA POST-CEASEFIRE GAINS: QUANG NGAI, BINH DINH, KONTUM, BINH DUONG, PHUOC LONG, AND CHUONG THIEN. IN BOTH MR 2 AND MR 3, THE ENEMY HAVE STEPPED UP THEIR SABOTAGE OF THE RAILROAD. RESUMPTION OF THE SAIGON-HANOI LIAISON FLIGHTS SIGNALLED NO CHANGE IN DRV/PRG UNRESPONSIVENESS IN FPJMT DISCUSSIONS. THERE WAS NO PROGRESS ON ANY ISSUE BEFORE THE TPJMC, INCLUDING DEPLOYMENT AND PRISONER RELEASES. END SUMMARY

2. THE LEVEL OF MILITARY ACTIVITY INCREASED IN MR 1 DURING THE PAST WEEK. CEASEFIRE VIOLATIONS REPORTED AT CORPS HEADQUARTERS AVERAGED 20 PER DAY, THE HIGHEST SINCE THE SECOND CEASEFIRE WENT INTO EFFECT. ALTHOUGH THERE HAVE BEEN SOME VIOLATIONS NORTH OF THE HAI VAN PASS (O
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PARTICULAR NOTE WAS THE ATTACK ON AUGUST 9 ON AN ARTILLERY FIRE BASE INWHICH 10 ARVN WERE KILLED AND NINE WOUNDED), MOST OF THE ACTIVITY AGAIN TOOK PLACE IN QUANG NGAI. AS THE GVN CONTINUES TO PUT PRESSURE ON THE VC IN THE LOWLANDS OF SOUTHERN MR 1, THE COMMUNISTS HAVE BEEN STEPPING UP THEIR RESISTANCE. THE COMMUNIST SIDE CLEARLY CONTINUES TO HOPE THAT ITS BUILDUP OF ROADS, SMALL DEPOT COMMUNITIES, FARMING AREAS AND MEDICAL UNITS IN "THE OTHER MR 1" CAN BE EXTENDED TO THE LEOPARD SPOTS OF COMMUNIST PREDOMINANCE IN THE LOWLANDS AND LINKED UP WITH THE WESTERN INFRASTRUCTURE. THROUGH THE SYSTEMATIC ELIMINATION OF THE ENEMY FROM HIS "LEOPARD SPOT" LOWLAND SANCTUARIES, THE GVN APPARENTLY HOPES THAT "THE OTHER MR 1" CAN THEN BE COMPLETELY BOTTLED UP IN THE MOUNTAINS, EFFECTIVELY QUARANTINED FROM THE LOWLAND VIETNAMESE POPULATION. THE FUNDAMENTAL IMPORTANCE OF THIS STRATEGY TO THE COMMUNIST SIDE IN THE CURRENT SITUATION DICTATES THE STIFF COMMUNIST
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RESISTANCE TO GVN CLEARING UNITS SEEN IN THE RECENT PERIOD. THE WEEK'S ACCELERATED MILITARY TEMPO HAS FOLLOWED THE PATTERN OF THE PREVIOUS TWO WEEKS, PARTICULARLY IN QUANG NHAI, WHERE SEVERAL OF THE COMMUNISTS' MOST PROMISING DEVELOPMENT OPPORTUNITIES IN THE LOWLANDS ARE THREATENED WITH BEING SNUFFED OUT. THE INCREASE IN ACTIVITY HAS BEEN ESPECIALLY NOTABLE IN WESTERN SON TINH DISTRICT, WHERE THE GVN HAS BOLSTERED ITS FORCES WITH A SECOND RANGER BATTALION. THE PRG HAS ALSO

BEEN ACTIVE AMONG REFUGEES, SEEKING TO DISCOURAGE THEM FROM PARTICIPATING IN GVN RETURN-TO-VILLAGE PROGRAMS WHILE PROPAGANDIZING ITS OWN SIMILAR RESETTLEMENT PROGRAMS.

3. HOSTILITIES IN MR 2 WERE SUSTAINED AT THE HIGHER LEVEL ATTAINED EARLY IN THE WEEK, AVERAGING 21 PER DAY. SIGNIFICANTLY HIGHER CASUALTIES ON BOTH SIDES REFLECT THE INTENSITY OF THE FIGHTING. TACTICAL AIR SUPPORT REMAINED HEAVY (345 SORTIES) UNTIL THE WEEKEND, AND CONTINUED TO BE CONCENTRATED IN BINH DINH AND KONTUM. IN AN APPARENT RESUMPTION OF ITS ASSAULTS ON VC/NVA POSITIONS IN TRUNG NGHIA AFTER A WEEK OF SOFTENING UP BY AIR AND ARTILLERY, ARVN IS REPORTED TO HAVE MOVED FROM KONTUM AGAINST THE FIRST LINE OF ENEMY TRANCHES. TO THE SOUTH, ARVN RANGERS LAUNCHED A DRIVE FROM PLEIKU UP ROUTE 14 TO DISTRACT THE VC/NVA FORCES AROUND TRUNG NGHIA. ON AUGUST 9, THEY APPARENTLY REACHED THEIR TERRAIN OBJECTIVES IN SOUTHERN KONTUM PROVINCE WHERE, HOWEVER, THEY HAVE SINCE BEEN SUBJECTED TO ENEMY COUNTER-ATTACK AND REPORTEDLY DISLODGED FROM HILLTOP POSITIONS. IN THE COASTAL REGIONS, THERE APPEARS TO BE A CONCERTED PRG EFFORT TO SINK EXTENSIVE ECONOMIC ROOTS WITHIN GVN-CONTROLLED TERRITORY (ESPECIALLY IN PHU YEN PROVINCE). THIS IS SEEN IN THE VC ENDEAVOR TO OVERCOME SCARCITIES OF ESSENTIAL GOODS IN AREAS UNDER ITS CONTROL AND AT THE SAME TIME TO EXACERBATE WEAKNESSES IN THE GVN ECONOMY--WITH LITTLE CONCERN FOR THE CASH OUTLAY REQUIRED.

4. THE LEVEL OF MILITARY ACTIVITY WAS VIRTUALLY UNCHANGED IN MR 3 DURING THE WEEK, WITH THE MR G-2 REPORTING 153 CLASHES AS COMPARED TO 160 THE PREVIOUS WEEK. AS IN PAST WEEKS, BINH DUONG PROVINCE HAD THE MOST CLASHES (38), BUT THE MAJORITY OF THESE WERE MINOR. THE NVA MADE NO SERIOUS EFFORT TO CLOSE ROUTE 1-A BELOW PHU GIAO AGAIN, AND RVNAF MADE NO SERIOUS EFFORT TO OPEN 1-A ABOVE PHU GIAO, ALTHOUGH

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THE 7TH REGIMENT REPLACED THE BATTERED 9TH REGIMENT NORTH OF PHU GIAO. IN PHUOC LONG, SOME 15 TRUCKS ARRIVED IN SONG BE FROM MR 2 (REPORTEDLY BAN ME THUOT) WITH ABOUT 150 TONS OF RICE AND OTHER CIVILIAN SUPPLIES, BUT THE PROMISED 100-TRUCK CONVOY FROM CAM RANH HAD NOT MATERIALIZED AND ITS PRESENT LOCATION AND STATUS REMAINED UNREPORTED ON AUGUST 13. IN PHUOC THUY, CONTROL OF ROUTE 23, XUYEN MOC DISTRICT'S ONLY LIFE LINE TO GVN-CONTROLLED TERRITORY, IS BEING CONTESTED BY A BATTALION OF THE NVA 274TH REGIMENT AND A LOCAL FORCE BATTALION AND DEFENDED BY ELEMENTS OF THE ARVN 18TH DIVISION AND THREE RF COMPANIES, SUPPORTED BY VNAF AIRSTIKES. AT WEEK'S END, THE ROAD WAS OPEN TO CIVILIAN TRAFFIC BUT NOT TO THE ARVN. THE PRG IS MAKING IT CLEAR THAT IT DOESN'T WANT THE RAILROAD REPAIRED AND OPENED BETWEEN XUAN LOC IN LONG KHANH PROVINCE AND BINH TUY PROVINCE. IT INTERDICTED THE RAILS TWICE ON AUGUST 6 AND ONCE ON AUGUST 8

NEAR XUAN LOC, AND BLEW UP AN 80 METER SECTION OF TRACK IN BIEN
HOA PROVINCE ON AUGUST 8.

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CIAE-00 INR-10 NSAE-00 RSC-01 DODE-00 L-02 IO-03

ACDA-10 AID-10 RSR-01 PRS-01 SSO-00 INRE-00 /076 W

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O R 141601Z AUG 73

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5. VIC ACTIVITY IN MR 4 CONTINUED AT ABOUT THE SAME LEVEL AS THE

PREVIOUS WEEK, AND WAS AGAIN CONCENTRATED IN CHUONG THIEN PROVINCE. MR 4 REPORTS INDICATE AN AVERAGE OF 37 VC-INITIATED
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INCIDENTS PER DAY AS COMPARED WITH 38 THE PRECEDING WEEK AND 24 THE WEEK OF JULY 22-28. INCIDENTS INCLUDED AN AVERAGE OF 3-4 GROUND ATTACKS PER DAY, 27 ATTACKS BY FIRE, AND 1-2 TERRORIST INCIDENTS. RVNAF DAILY CASUALTIES AVERAGED 22 KILLED, 82 WOUNDED, AND SIX MISSING. THE GVN CLAIM AN AVERAGE OF 47 VC KILLED PER DAY, AND 2-3 CAPTURED. ALTHOUGH VC MILITARY ACTIVITY REMAINED CONCENTRATED IN CHUONG THIEN, SIGNIFICANT ATTACKS WERE ALSO REPORTED IN SA DEC, DINH TUONG, VINH BINH, AND BAC LIEU PROVINCES, LARGELY DIRECTED AGAINST PF OUTPOSTS. RENEWED NVA INFILTRATION IS REPORTED THROUGH KIEN GIANG PROVINCE TO THE CENTRAL CHONG THIEN AREA. VC ACTIVITY IN DINH TUONG PROVINCE IS CONCENTRATED IN THE NORTHEAST AND SOUTHEAST CORNERS OF CAI LAY DISTRICT, THE SITE OF 40 OF THE 64 VC INCIDENTS REPORTED IN THE PROVINCE DURING THE WEEK.

6. THE VIETNAMESE COMMUNISTS HAVE CONDEMNED IN ADVANCE WHAT THEY CHARACTERIZE AS A GVN "SCHEME" TO INVADE CAMBODIA TO "RESCUE" THE GKR AFTER US BOMBING ENDS ON AUGUST 15. HANOI'S PARTY NEWSPAPER, NHAN DAN, CHARGED IN AN AUGUST 11 COMMENTARY THAT THE "THIEU CLIQUE" IS FEVERISHLY PREPARING FOR A MILITARY VENTURE IN CAMBODIA AND THEREBY SABOTAGING ARTICLE 29 OF THE PARIS AGREEMENT AND RELEVANT PROVISIONS OF THE FINAL ACT OF THE INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE AND THE JOINT COMMUNIQUE OF JUNE 13. LIBERATIONS RADIO, ALSO ON AUGUST 11, CITED A UPI REPORT WHICH CLAIMED THAT THE GVN HAD MOBILIZED A "DIVISION" OF 15,000 ETHNIC CAMBODIANS IN SOUTH VIET NAM FOR ACTION IN CAMBODIA. BOTH THE BROADCAST AND NHAN DAN REFERRED TO GVN DELEGATION CHIEF VIEN'S STATEMENT THAT A "SUDDEN CHANGE" IN CAMBODIA WOULD FORCE THE GVN TO RECONSIDER ITS STANCE REGARDING BI-LATERAL TALKS, AS "EVIDENCE" OF GVN ILL-INTENT.

7. THE RECENT RESUMPTION OF SAIGON-HANOI LIAISON FLIGHTS HAS NOT HAD ANY VISIBLE EFFECT ON THE DRV NEGOTIATING POSITION IN THE FPJMT. DESPITE CONSIDERABLE PRESSING BY USDEL, THE DRV AND PRG DELEGATIONS CONTINUE TO BE UNRESPONSIVE TO US REQUESTS FOR INFORMATION ON U.S. MISSING-IN-ACTION AND DIED-IN-CAPTIVITY. DISCUSSION IN THE FPJMT SESSIONS LAST WEEK CONCENTRATED ON THE PRG'S OBSTRUCTIVE DEMAND FOR CONSTRUCTING CEMETERIES AND MEMORIALS WHICH IS NOT EVEN CONTEMPLATED BY C-F WITH NO PROGRESS ON ANY ISSUES.

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8. THERE WAS VIRTUALLY NO PROGRESS ON ANY FRONT IN TPJMC SUB-COMMISSION OR CHIEFS-OF-DELEGATION MEETINGS DURING THE PAST WEEK. THE PRG IS STILL STALLING ON NAMING SPECIFIC TIMES FOR THE PICKUP OF ITS REGIONS III, IV, & VII PERSONNEL AT THE PREVIOUSLY AGREED SITES, AND PICKUP SITES FOR THE TWO REMAINING REGIONS (V & VI) WERE NOT EVEN DISCUSSED. RESUMPTION OF PRISONER RELEASES REMAINS STYMIED BY PRG REFUSAL TO BAR EXTRANEIOUS PERSONNEL FROM ACCESS TO AREAS WITHIN 500 METERS OF RELEASE SITES. THE PRG ALSO CONTINUES TO INSIST THAT THE 20 "THIRD FORCE" STUDENTS FOR WHOM IT HAD SIGNED RECEIPTS ON JULY 23 REMAIN A GVN RESPONSIBILITY. PRG DISTORTIONS OF THE "ONE FOR ONE" AND "SAME CHARACTERISTICS AND PROPERTIES" PHRASES IN ARTICLE 7 OF THE PROTOCOL PRECLUDE MEANINGFUL DISCUSSION OF THE QUESTION OF REPLACEMENT OF EQUIPMENT AND POE INSPECTION. THE QUESTION OF FIXING UNIT LOCATIONS AND DEMARCATING ZONES OF CONTROL IS STILL DEADLOCKED ON TWO COUNTS: THE GVN "CIRCLE" APPROACH VS THE PRG "LINE" APPROACH, AND DISAGREEMENT OVER WHETHER DISCUSSIONS BETWEEN UNIT COMMANDERS SHOULD BEGIN AT DIVISION LEVEL AND WORK DOWN TO COMPANY LEVEL WITH PRIOR AGREEMENT OF THE DIVISION COMMANDERS (GVN) OR COMMENCE AT THE VARIOUS UNIT LEVELS SIMULTANEOUSLY (PRG).
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